

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6284
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2246

LIMDIS

FOR STR

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, DN
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: COPENHAGEN 2049

1. MFA'S UNDER SECRETARY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ERSBOLL GAVE ME
BRIEF SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS REACHED ON MTN DURING APRIL 4
EC COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG:

A. COUNCIL REACHED AGREEMENT ON HOW TO REACT TO THE OFFERS
MADE BY MAIN TRADING PARTNERS OF EC -I.E., U.S. AND JAPAN.
COMMUNITY WILL PUT FORWARD IN GATT LIST OF IMPROVEMENTS IT
WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADOPTED. THIS LIST IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE
THAT EC WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS DEEP A TARIFF CUT AS POSSIBLE.
AT THE SAME TIME COUNCIL AGREED TO INFORM U.S. AND JAPAN
OF THE LIST OF WITHDRAWALS ("HARD CORE") WHICH MIGHT
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HAVE TO BE INTRODUCED IF IMPROVEMENTS CANNOT BE WORKED
OUT.

B. THE FRENCH TRIED TO HAVE A SECOND LIST OF WITH-
DRAWALS ADOPTED. THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY SOME OF
THE OTHER MEMBERS, BUT IN THE END IT WAS AGREED THAT
THIS SECOND LIST WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED INTO THE MTN

NOW BUT WOULD ONLY BE USED IN THE EVENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS JUSTIFIED IT. AMONG THE ITEMS ON THE SECOND LIST WHICH WILL NOT BE PRESENTED TO US AT THIS STAGE ARE TEXTILES AND CARS.

2. THE COUNCIL ALSO REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO THE SELECTIVE USE OF SAFEGUARDS. IN ANOTHER PARAGRAPH THE COUNCIL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE INJURY CRITERIA IN GATT ARTICLE 6.

3. ACCORDING TO ERSBOLL, EC COMMISSIONER HAFERKAMP WAS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THIS COUNCIL MEETING AND FELT THAT IT WOULD GIVE THE COMMISSION THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

4. THE EC COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS WERE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED APRIL 4 BY THE 113 COMMITTEE, WHICH MET SIMULTANEOUSLY. ERSBOLL THOUGHT THAT THE 113 COMMITTEE HAD WORKED WELL AND HAD FOUND THE GOING LESS DIFFICULT THAN THE DANES HAD FEARED.

5. ERSBOLL OPINED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON TARIFFS HAVE GONE ABOUT AS FAR NOW AS THEY CAN AT THIS STAGES. THE NEXT STEP IS UP TO U.S. AND JAPAN TO REACT TO THE EC
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OFFER. HE ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION PROGRESS NOW NEEDS TO BE MADE ON OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS SAFEGUARDS, AGRICULTURE, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS.

6. ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR STRAUSS PRIOR TO HIS MEETINGS WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER DANISH OFFICIALS.
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